

Massachusetts Avenue Heights

"The Best Buy in Washington"



MASSACHUSETTS Avenue Heights is not a suburb—it is part of the city. Its plan of development is unusual. A large portion is, as The Evening Star has said, "A city within a park." It affords remarkable villa sites, with century-old trees, in the heart of residential Washington. This "Villa Section" has established a standard of realty development along the lines of civic beauty which will make it the most artistic and talked of residential park in America. For magnificent home sites it will be without a peer. Its wooded slopes will be ornamented with the homes of the nation's leaders.

There are, however, smaller lots. These, with a minimum frontage of fifty feet, will be the sites for homes less costly, but peopled by Washington's best citizens.



THE record of Massachusetts Avenue Heights during the past year is without a parallel in Washington. In point of improvement work accomplished and sales made it has set a new high-water mark. The reason for the unequaled sales record is the low prices asked. Owing to the fact that it was necessary to close some of the estates interested the trustees made the prices so low that this property was, as it is today, without question "The Best Buy in Washington," either as an investment or as a location for homes. The public, both in Washington and elsewhere, was quick to seize the opportunity presented.

Inquiries during the past few days indicate that the sales for the coming season will far exceed those of the past twelve months.

Thomas J. Fisher & Co., Inc.,
General Sales Agent.

American Security & Trust Co.,
Amos H. Plumb, Trustees.

Let Us Send You a Copy of the
"Story of the Heights"

WEALTH OF ALASKA

Purchase Price Many Times
Returned to United States.

SOURCES OF THE REVENUE

Principal Assets Are the Fur Seals,
the Fisheries and Gold Mines.

TOTAL OF 590,804 SQUARE MILES

Forty-Fifth Anniversary of the
Transfer to This Government
Celebrated Today.

Throughout Alaska today will be one of celebration. It marks the forty-fifth anniversary of the purchase of the country by the United States from Russia. Although the American people raised a great outcry over the expenditure of \$7,200,000 for this distant, frozen land, the government's return has been tremendous. Alaska is now classed as one of the richest territorial governments.

The first definite knowledge of Alaska was acquired in 1741 through the expedition under Vitus Bering, a Dane in the Russian service, who in that year sailed from Okhotsk as far as 58 degrees 39 minutes north latitude. A couple of years later Siberian fur hunters began to coast along the mainland of the American continent and the Aleutian Islands in search of the valuable sea-otter. In 1762 Andreian Tolstoykh, after a sojourn of three years in these regions, returned to Russia, and on his presentation of the commercial importance of Alaska, Catherine II sent an expedition to foster trade and colonization. Rival companies began to dispute the territory, but in 1780 two traders, Grigor Shumakov and Ivan Golikov, relying on home influence, chiefly that of Resanov, chamberlain to the emperor, formed the Russian-American Fur Company, the history of which is the history of the Muscovite domination in Alaska from 1780 until the sale of the territory to the United States in 1867.

Seal Rookeries Discovered.
In 1786 Gerassim Iribiloff, an employee of the company, discovered the seal rookeries in the Bering sea. This discovery occasioned the reopening of trade with China, from which Holland and England.

Omega Oil

for Pains in
the Back

A simple rubbing with this wonderful Oil gives quick relief. It penetrates through the pores of the skin to the place that hurts and stops the pain. Trial bottle free; all druggists.

by their greater facilities, had driven Russia. The fur of the seal was especially prized by the Chinese, according to the Catholic Encyclopedia, who had found the secret of plucking and dyeing the skins, and a lucrative trade was the result. Alexander Baranof, who in 1790 became general manager of the company, was for more than a quarter of a century the presiding genius of a commerce which extended to California and the Sandwich Islands, as well as to China. Baranof Island, where a new center of activity was established. Shipbuilding and various other industries were started. Rude agricultural implements were made for the Mexican and Californian trade, and bells were cast for the Spanish mission churches, which are said to be still in use. The policy of inland exploration pursued by the successors of Baranof turned the energies of the fur company into other channels, and necessarily reduced its dividends. The charter granted in 1790 was renewed in 1821 and 1841. When it expired in 1864 a renewal was not granted, nor was it sought.

Companies Acquire Fortunes.
These companies have made fortunes in fisheries and fur hunting, while in recent years mining of the various metals has been making similar returns. According to the census of 1900, Alaska embraces, inclusive of the islands, 590,804 square miles. These figures represent all the North American continent west of the 141st meridian of western longitude, with a narrow fringe of land between the Pacific and British territory all the islands along the coast, and the Aleutian chain. The acreage, according to the governor's report of 1901, is 389,529,000. This great empire is equal in size to all the states east of the Mississippi. Its heart is a great central plateau, 600 miles long, east to west, and 400 broad, from north to south, though its extreme limits are 800 by 1,000 miles. This does not

include the Aleutian Islands—the stepping stones to Asia—that stretch from its southwestern portion westward to the Pacific about 1,500 miles. Numerous inlets provide an easy coastwise intercommunication, but the chief natural highway is the mighty Yukon, navigable for 2,500 miles east to west. It divides the Alaskan territory near the center, and is ice-free from June to October. Petroff says that at its mouth it discharges into the Bering sea a greater volume of water than the Mississippi.

Several large navigable rivers, notably the Koyukuk and Tanana, flow into the Yukon, but many of the smaller streams running into the Bering sea and the Arctic ocean, are shallow, and available only for small craft, a circumstance which is retarding the work of prospecting and mining. Various railways in and through Alaska are projected, one or two of which are under construction. The completion of these new channels of inland transportation will advance a hundredfold the interests of the country. Alaska is mountainous, but contains extensive valleys of productive soil.

From Seattle to Sledway is a distance of about 1,000 miles, a little more than from New York to Chicago, and from Seattle to the most distant part of Alaska is about the distance from New York to San Francisco. The gold fields of the Yukon are reached from Seattle by ocean steamer, rail and river steamer in about six days. It takes about twice as long to reach the placer mines of Nome. Communication is open during the summer season only; in winter transportation is carried on with the aid of dog teams.

Sources of Wealth.
The actual wealth of Alaska consists in fur seals, fisheries and gold mines. The principal breeding grounds of the fur seal is on the Pribilof Islands, just north of the Aleutian chain. From 1868 to the middle of 1903 the seals taken by the lessees of these islands represent a value of \$35,000,000. Other furs to the value of \$17,000,000 bring the total value of the Alaskan fur trade in this period to the sum of \$52,000,000. These figures take no account of the pelagic seal catch. The salmon fisheries are another source of wealth. In 1901 the total value of the fish exportation was \$9,000,000. In this year 10,000 barrels of canned salmon were shipped to the United States. The cod fisheries promise, by reason of their vast area and rich supply, to exceed in value those of Newfoundland or any other part of the world. Placer gold has been located in many places in Alaska—a fact which proves that the territory is

only beginning to reveal its wealth. Gold mines are being successfully worked in three localities, southeastern Alaska, the Yukon river and its tributaries and the Cape Nome district opposite the coast of Asia.

The output of gold in American Alaska for the fiscal year of 1905 was about \$10,000,000. Its copper, coal, tin, silver, gypsum and marble now enter into calculations of commerce. There is abundant supply of valuable timber especially in southeastern Alaska, but it is not yet legally available for export, as the public lands have not been surveyed. Agriculture is possible in about 100,000 square miles in southeastern Alaska, which owes to the "Japan current" its temperate climate, and which can produce wheat, oats, grasses for cattle and vegetables in great variety. The latest official reports speak with praise of the supplies raised at the Holy Cross Mission on the Yukon. It would be possible for the land to furnish at least a portion of the food supply needed by the present population.

Accumulation of \$180,000,000.
The total wealth accruing to the United States from its Alaskan possessions between 1867 and 1905 is calculated at nearly \$180,000,000, about equally accredited to furs, fish and gold. During the year 1905 the bulk of trade, export and import, amounted to about \$21,000,000. In 1891 Dr. Sheldon Jackson introduced reindeer from Siberia into the northern part of Alaska, but their usefulness, as a means of transportation and a source of supplies for miners and natives, is still a matter of experiment. The animals are farmed out in herds to the various mission centers on the Yukon, along the coast of the Bering sea and on Kotzebue sound. Reindeer moss, indigenous to northwestern Alaska, furnishes abundant food for those animals, whose numbers now reach about 6,000.

Alaska, though called a territory, is properly known as the "District of Alaska." It has no legislature and no territorial form of government, but is governed directly by Congress, and locally administered by a governor, assisted by a secretary and a surveyor-general. United States marshals and attorneys appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Senate, it constitutes a judicial district, with three subdivisions and three courts. The governor is required to make an annual report to the Secretary of the Interior. The capital is Sitka, on Baranof Island, a city founded by the Russian governor of that name in 1799, and the oldest town in Alaska. The sale of liquor to the natives is gov-

erned by special regulations. From 1867 to June 30, 1905, the government revenues amounted to \$9,555,900, of which \$7,597,536 was paid in as a tax on fur seals and \$528,358 as customs.

Educational Facilities.
Regarding education, the pupils are under the official supervision of a United States general agent for education in Alaska, who resides at Washington. In 1905 there were fifty-one public schools, with sixty-two teachers and 3,063 pupils. From 1884 to 1901 Congress made a small annual grant for the support of these schools, but in 1901 an act was passed by which license fees collected from unincorporated towns were to be applied in part to the establishment and maintenance of schools for "the education of white children and children of mixed bloods who lead a civilized life." Such schools are placed in charge of the Governor of Alaska as ex-officio superintendent of education.

THREE SEINERS ARE FINED.
Alexandrians Convicted in Police Court of the District.
Three Alexandrians were convicted in the Police Court today of hauling a seine in the Potomac river within the limits of the District. The court imposed fines as follows: John Hurdle, \$10 or thirty days; James Williams, \$25 or ninety days; and George Jones, colored, \$25 or ninety days. Policemen Ostermann and Preston of the harbor precinct told Judge Pugh that they watched the three men for two hours last Wednesday night while they hauled a seine near Shepherd's wharf. They stated that about 400 pounds of fish were caught by the men.

In their defense the men declared they were not within the limits of the District when they hauled the seine. The court held that the testimony was convincing, and, therefore, imposed the fines.

Friendly Advice.
From Sketch.
Pool—A publisher I called to see this morning had the audacity to call me an ass. I'm going to see my solicitor.

Friend—I shouldn't, old chap. See a vet.

MAY OPEN CANAL NEXT YEAR.
Col. Goethals Discusses Progress of Work on Panama Cut.

Col. Goethals, chief engineer of the Panama canal, who has just returned to this country from a visit to Germany, where he was entertained by the kaiser and inspected the principal canals, had a conference with Secretary Stimson at the War Department today regarding future operations on the isthmus.

Col. Goethals said he believed the canal would be opened for commerce about the first of August, 1913, although it might not be formally opened until January, 1915. If the gate contractors dash by June 1, 1913, he said, the canal will be ready for business just as soon as the water reaches the eighty-foot stage in Gatun lake, which ought to be early in the following August. Thereafter the main work will consist of getting the locks in perfect running order and putting on the finishing touches.

Referring to the heavy appropriations necessary to complete the canal, Col. Goethals remarked, laughingly, that it was not unlikely that five years from now Congress would have an investigation to find out where all the money had gone to.

RESOLUTION VETOED.
President Objects to Second Inspection of Maneuver Camp.
President Taft has returned to Congress, with his veto, a resolution calling on the War Department to send a board of five army officers to Anniston, Ala., to inspect a site offered by the citizens of that place for a maneuver camp to be used jointly by regular troops and the militia of nearby states.

The President held that the proposed inspection was unnecessary, as Inspector General Stephen C. Mills already had visited the proposed site and reported it as excellently situated for maneuver purposes.

Well Worth Reading.
In our next Sunday magazine: The second installment of "The Lost World," by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; "A Badly Written Comedy," by Helen Ward

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The Star Supreme as a Classified Medium

Plain Talk.
From the Louisville Courier-Journal.
Mrs. Wombat proceeded to use some very plain language.
Mr. Wombat objected.
"Ain't what I say true?" demanded Mrs. Wombat.
"Yes; but, woman, be more diplomatic. You talk as if you were abrogating a treaty."

Banks; "The Flying Emerald," by Mary Stewart Cutting; part VIII of "A Captain Unafraid," narrated by Capt. John O'Brien to Horace Smith; "Where Cupid Is King," by James Hay, Jr.; illustrated song No. 38, "Maid of Athens," illustrated by Corwin Knapp Linson; "A Modern Diogenes," by Edward Riddle Padgett; "Truth to the Stagecoach," by Marguerite Clark, and "Bookkeepers as Bank Robbers," by William Atherton Du Puy.

Sherlocko the Monk

The Adventure of the Lady in Distress

By Gus Mager

